



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (repward@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Gene Ward
Hawai'i House of Representatives
Hawai'i State Capitol
Room 319
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for H.B. 2295, The Parents' Bill of Rights

Dear Representative Ward,

On behalf of our thousands of supporters in Hawai'i, we write to you today in strong support of your bill, H.B. 2295, The Parents' Bill of Rights.

This critical bill will enshrine into Hawai'i state law that parental rights are fundamental, as the U.S. Supreme Court has long recognized in the leading cases protecting parental rights as a fundamental right. *See, e.g., Meyer v. Nebraska*, 262 U.S. 390 (1923), *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925), *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205 (1972), and *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000). The Hawai'i Supreme Court has agreed, stating that "independent of the federal constitution, [] parents have a substantive liberty interest in the care, custody, and control of their children protected by the due process clause of article 1, section 5 of the Hawai'i Constitution." *In the Interest of Doe*, 57 P.3d 447, 458 (Haw. 2002). *See also, e.g., Doe v. Doe*, 172 P.3d 1067, 1078-79 (Haw. 2007). H.B. 2295 will enshrine this judicial protection of parental rights into Hawai'i law, further protecting parental rights.

Additionally, H.B. 2295 will provide parents of children in public schools in Hawai'i with concrete rights concerning the education, privacy, and safety of their children. H.B. 2295 will put into Hawai'i law some of the strongest protections for parents and children in the nation. Passage of H.B. 2295 will allow Hawai'i to join the twelve states across the country that already protect parental rights as a fundamental right in their state statutes.

ParentalRights.org is proud to support this critical and timely piece of legislation. At a time when it seems that government is encroaching more and more on loving parents and their ability to care for, educate, and raise their children, H.B. 2295 provides strong legal protections to Hawai'i parents so that parents – not bureaucrats – are the ones legally protected to make the important decisions necessary to protect, raise, and educate their children, so that their children can grow and thrive.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached via phone at 540-751-1200, or via email at will@parentalrights.org.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

William A. Estrada, Esq.*
President
ParentalRights.org

**Licensed in the District of Columbia*